



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

 [News Releases](#)  [Podcasts](#)

For immediate release:
Oct. 23, 2008

Contact: Nick Young
(804) 726-7405 or
Phyllis Sisk
(804) 726-7404

Anonymous tip helps locate “Most Wanted” child support evader

Within 24 hours, citizens called 1-800 hotline with information on mother’s whereabouts

RICHMOND – Shortly after the release of the latest “Most Wanted” child support evader poster, the only female featured has been apprehended. Wendy Marie Gentry was arrested Thursday, Oct. 23 for failure to pay more than \$24,000 in past-due support to her children. Acting on tips and information provided, deputies from the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Department were able to stake out and apprehend Gentry, taking her into immediate custody.

Numerous calls and anonymous tips were made to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Child Support Enforcement’s toll-free hotline on the whereabouts of Gentry in the first 24 hours after the “Most Wanted” poster was made public. The collaborative efforts of the Rockingham County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the Sheriff’s Department made this arrest possible.

Gentry was one of nine noncustodial parents featured on DCSE’s latest “Most Wanted” [online poster](#). The poster was made available to the public Oct. 14 via the VDSS [Web site](#) and through information provided to newspapers and radio and television stations throughout Virginia.

The latest online poster features eight men and one woman, all noncustodial parents, who owe a combined total of \$523,605 in past-due support to their children. The poster contains each person’s photograph, physical description, last known address, occupation and the amount of child support owed. The individuals profiled work in a variety of occupations and include a painter, car salesman and quality assurance inspector. Some of the parents featured owe debts ranging from \$24,878 for two children to \$177,401 for one child.

Noncustodial parents who appear on the “Most Wanted” list must owe at least \$8,000 and have not made one child support payment for six straight months. The case also must have gone through the judicial process. In this instance, a capias warrant had been issued for Gentry.

Issuing the state’s “Most Wanted” list online is one of many tools Virginia uses to collect child support. Other methods include income withholding, freezing assets held by financial institutions, suspending driver’s licenses, booting vehicles, subpoenaing cell phone records, placing liens on assets and intercepting federal and state tax refunds. This most recent “Most Wanted” poster is the 21st list of child support evaders to be issued since the agency’s program began in 1989. Last year, DCSE collected a record \$629 million in child support benefiting one-quarter of the children in Virginia.

The “Most Wanted” list can be viewed at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse/2008_most_wanted/index.html. If you have any information regarding the location or employment of these parents, or any person evading their child support obligations, please call toll free 1-800-257-9986.

More information about Virginia’s “Most Wanted” and the Child Support Enforcement Program can be found at <http://childsupport.virginia.gov>.

#

The Virginia Department of Social Services administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services, through 120 local departments of social services throughout the state and its home office in Richmond. The VDSS mission is “People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.”

Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov.